

CITY ARSON GANG HIRES FIRE FIENDS

Donaldson Tells of Insurance Firms Giving \$10,000 for Their Capture

SAYS HE WON'T STOP PROBE

Professional firebugs known as "arson rips" in this city, according to Thomas B. Donaldson, State Insurance Commissioner, in his first public statement since the fire insurance scandal started. Accusations of these men, according to the Commissioner, have resulted in the deaths of thousands of people. "Come what may," he declares, "I will continue to conduct this investigation. I admit that fire insurance companies subscribed a total of \$10,000 to pay the expenses of the investigation into certain fire insurance adjusters' methods and the institution of criminal proceedings by certain adjusters against George F. McCann, a detective, and Harry Fox, janitor of an office building, who had been found guilty of the same crime. McCann and Fox were held in \$1000 bail each by Magistrate Benton last Monday on a charge of conspiracy, involving the rigging of desks of certain fire adjusters and wire-tapping.

Mr. Donaldson's Statement

The statement follows: The 1921 Legislature passed an act providing that all adjusters of claims against insurance companies who received compensation for representing policyholders must apply to the Insurance Commissioner and qualify for a license as public adjuster. The act provides that the licensee shall be "trustworthy and competent to transact business as a public adjuster in such manner as to safeguard the interests of the public." The new law was actually drafted several years ago. A revised draft was discussed with certain adjusters, agents, brokers and company officials before it was submitted to the 1921 Legislature. From start to conclusion the act was the Insurance Department measure. Immediately after the new law took effect the Insurance Commissioner obtained for the first time an array of facts from authentic sources which established suspicious origin of scores of fires; indicated the presence in Philadelphia of professional arson men, known as "torches," involved certain agents and brokers in adjustment "fees splitting" and overinsuring of low-grade properties and contents, and showed brazen methods of certain individuals known as public adjusters of fire claims.

Department Without Funds

The Commissioner, being vested with discretionary powers under the new license law, found it urgently necessary to acquire full information. The City Fire Marshal's office was admittedly overburdened in its efforts to investigate scores of suspicious fires and activities of individuals concerned in the results of the fires. The Insurance Department had neither funds nor working staff to conduct a thorough investigation of a subject which was wide and deep in its ramifications. "Each of the stock fire insurance companies of Pennsylvania was asked to contribute a modest amount of money to permit investigation by the Insurance Commissioner and a special staff. The amount subscribed was less than \$10,000. The most prominent detective agency was first employed and after a test-out period, actually upon the advice of a former member, was determined to undertake an intensive investigation, and this was arranged for by the Insurance Commissioner by the employment of a former member, during the recent war, of the intelligence section of the army.

Knows of No Lawlessness

"So far as the Insurance Commissioner knows, no agent working directly or indirectly under him committed lawless acts of any description. It was never the intention of the Commissioner at the time of starting the investigation to institute criminal prosecutions. It was a campaign of investigation to determine whether or not

TO CARRY BIBLE TO CHINA



Miss Mabelle R. Culley (left), of 1001 Pembroke avenue, East Lansdowne, and Miss Elsie M. Kittlitz, 618 North Fifty-third street, who are about to sail for China for missionary work

PHILADELPHIA WOMEN GO TO CHINA AS MISSIONARIES

Will Devote Rest of Lives to Uplift of People in Faraway Orient

Two Philadelphia women will leave their homes here on Friday, and start their long journey to China, where they will devote their lives to missionary endeavor. They are Miss Mabelle R. Culley, of 1001 Pembroke avenue, East Lansdowne, and Miss Elsie M. Kittlitz, of 618 North Fifty-third street.

Miss Culley has already spent six years in the mission field, having returned for a year's vacation. Miss Kittlitz is going out for the first time. They sail November 10 from Vancouver on the Empress of Russia, bound for Swatow, South China, about a night's journey north of Hongkong.

They will work in the Baptist mission at Swatow.

"We find the Chinese to be just what the world needs. Some good, some bad, some indifferent. I speak Chinese, and I have my money and my good friends among the Chinese as I have here at home. The district in which we work is as large as Pennsylvania and New Jersey put together. We have high schools and elementary schools, hospitals and a new residence for mission workers has just been built."

WANT POSTMASTER KEPT

Friends of Chief at Rutledge Resent Contemplated Change

Residents of Morton and Rutledge who are friends of the present postmaster for the district, W. H. Thompson, of Rutledge, say they are going to start a petition to have him retain the job. They say they were surprised to learn the district had been advanced from a fourth to a third-class post-office and another man took an examination at Swarthmore prior to being appointed from Washington.

Supporters of Thompson say they are strongly opposed to any change. Only one applicant took the examination and his name has not yet been announced, they say.

FINE FRAMING PAINTINGS CLEANED AND RESTORED
THE ROSENBAUGH GALLERIES
1320 Walnut Street

HURRICANE FLOODS CITIES IN FLORIDA

Near-Tidal Wave Overflows Port Tampa City and Tampa. Orange Crops Damaged

NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

By the Associated Press Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 25. — The Gulf hurricane apparently had passed into the Atlantic Ocean today after sweeping across the Florida peninsula in a northeasterly direction. Wire communication south of here still was severed, except down the rim of the east coast, which was not affected by the blow. The only reports on conditions in South Florida were brought here by train crews.

No loss of life had been reported today, but heavy damage was done to the orange crop and inundation of the lowlands.

Low parts of the city of Tampa were reported under several feet of water because of the high tide in Tampa Bay and the Hillsboro River. Train service generally was being maintained in the district, but some lines were under several feet of water, which forced detours by other routes.

W. A. Kelsey, conductor of the first Atlantic Coast Line train arriving here today from Tampa, said he was in Port Tampa yesterday when the full effect of the storm began to be felt. The rise in tide he described as nothing short of a tidal wave. From two to ten feet of water quickly covered the greater part of Port Tampa City, houses were unroofed and destroyed by the wind and the extensive railroad terminals and elevators on the waterfront were heavily damaged.

In Tampa, nine miles away, all low parts of the city were under water. Stores in the Franklin street retail district were flooded to a depth of eighteen inches. City lighting, street cars and telephones were out of commission.

St. Petersburg, Clearwater and other points on the Pinellas Peninsula, which separates Tampa Bay from the Gulf, have not been heard from even indirectly since early yesterday, but no alarm was felt for their safety, as they are thirty to forty feet above water.

All railway trains are much delayed.

GLOUCESTER CAFE BURNS

Authorities Believe Blaze Was Started by Thieves

The Gloucester City police and fire authorities are making an investigation of a mysterious fire which early yesterday destroyed the American Restaurant, at King and Linden streets. It is believed the fire was started by thieves.

The fire spread rapidly, and for a few minutes it looked as though several dwellings would go.

The restaurant was patronized by shipyard workers.

LED INTO CRIME BY FAKE ACTOR, ROBBER DECLARES

Prisoner Admits Hold-ups and Accuses Companion as Gang Leader

One man, declared to be the leader of a band of highwaymen, and another, who has confessed, were held without bail for court today by Magistrate McElroy at City Hall. They are Edward A. Chalfont, of Arch street near Sixteenth, and Allen Diehl, of Collingdale, Pa.

Diehl declared he had been induced to enter a career of crime by Chalfont, who, he said, posed as a movie actor and a wealthy Main Line resident. Diehl claims to be well connected in Collingdale.

According to Diehl, they robbed Pickering's drug store at Bryn Mawr about a month ago; Guilford's haberdashery, at 27 South Fifteenth street, October 19, getting \$500, and later tried to rob Leon Kahn, a delicatessen dealer at 600 South Fifty-first street. They were bluffed by Kahn, he said, and left without taking anything.

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A custom-made suit is distinctive—especially when tailored from fine materials. Jones's tailors—with fine domestic and foreign suitings—will give you satisfaction.
\$55 to \$75
One special table at \$50.
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In appropriate Tweeds, Cheviots and Homespun, properly proportioned to give absolute comfort and ease for that long drive.
Golf Hose, Caps and Sweaters in complete assortment.
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YOU CAN BUY suits at any good store for \$43. But not such suits as these. They are as fine quality suits as ever found room on our tables. AND THAT'S GOING SOME.
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A Philadelphia sawmaker, when asked what he put into his saws that made them so good, said: "Nothing but good steel and honest work."
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Solid mahogany damask Chair.....	\$25.00	Wicker Davenport, in cretonne, 73 in.....	\$25.00
Rush seat mahogany Chair or Rocker.....	\$9.75	Mahogany Console Table.....	\$10.75
Dining Table, Queen Anne, 48 in.....	\$19.00	Mahogany 10-piece Dining Suit.....	\$475.00
10-piece walnut Dining Room Suit.....	\$200.00	Large high-back Wicker Arm Chair.....	\$22.50
Mahogany Tea Wagon, glass tray.....	\$12.75	Mahogany Louis XV Bed Room Suit.....	\$175.00
Large oval Colonial Table, 45-in. top.....	\$25.00	Wicker Suit, cretonne cushions.....	\$40.00
Tapestry Windsor Chair or Rocker.....	\$14.75	Mahogany Arm Chair, imperial leather.....	\$15.00
Mahogany 4-piece Bed Room Suit.....	\$195.00	Jacobean oak Dining Room Suit.....	\$125.00
Mahogany Gate Leg Table.....	\$12.00	Mahogany tapstry Living Room Suit.....	\$65.00
Easy Arm Chair, leather seat.....	\$5.75	Solid mahogany Windsor Day Bed.....	\$55.00
Chinese Grass Table, 24 in. long.....	\$6.75	Imported velour Living Room Suit.....	\$250.00
Elaborate Ivory 7-piece Bed Room.....	\$475.00	Davenport Bed, imperial leather.....	\$45.00
Telephone Table, complete with chair.....	\$5.50	Overstuffed tapstry Living Room Suit.....	\$135.00
Martha Washington Sewing Table.....	\$18.00	Georgian walnut Dining Suit, 10 pcs.....	\$385.00
Mahogany Dining Room Suit, 4 pieces.....	\$225.00	Davenport Table, mahogany, 60 in.....	\$32.00

Rugs and Linoleums at 1/2 Price

9x12 Extra Wilton.....	\$72.75	9x12 Fine French Wilton.....	\$69.50
8.3x10.6 Heavy Axminster.....	\$28.00	8x10 Marie Antoinette.....	\$6.50
6x9 Colonial Rug.....	\$4.00	6.9x12 Extra Wilton.....	\$47.00
7.6x9 Wool Fibre.....	\$7.50	8.3x10.6 Best Wool Fibre.....	\$8.75
9x12 Heavy Brussels.....	\$23.50	9x12 Finest Axminster.....	\$35.00
8.3x10.6 Fine Wilton.....	\$45.00	1.40 Cork Linoleum, sq. yd.....	\$.85
6x9 Standard Wilton.....	\$25.00	1.25 Heavy Inlaid Linoleum.....	\$1.85

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